For Immediate Release

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Katharine Lee Reid, Director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, Named Laurel School's 2002 Distinguished Alumna

Shaker Heights, Ohio (May 14, 2002) — Katharine Lee Reid, Class of 1959 at Laurel School, will be honored on Saturday, May 18, as Laurel School's Distinguished Alumna for 2002. The award will be presented to Mrs. Reid, the Director of the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), at Laurel's Alumnae Luncheon held at the school on May 18 at 12:30 p.m.

"Katharine's skillful combination of administrative acumen, scholarship and humanity have earned her an international reputation and the admiration and respect of the entire Laurel community," Laurel's Head of School, Helen Rowland Marter, said.

After graduating *magna cum laude* from Vassar College and earning a Master of Fine Arts degree from Harvard University, Mrs. Reid studied at The Sorbonne and the Institut d'Art et Archeologie in Paris as a Fulbright Scholar and learned museum curatorship through a grant from the Ford Foundation. Recently retired as president of the Association of Art Museum Directors, Mrs. Reid has made her mark at a number of highly regarded institutions, including the Art Institute of Chicago (AIC) and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) in Richmond, before being appointed director of CMA in January of 2000.

Community outreach was a major focus of Mrs. Reid's at VMFA and is now an initiative that she champions at CMA. In Virginia, she achieved a 32 percent increase in museum membership as well as increased annual attendance due in part to collaborating with community groups and incorporating a wide range of music and the performing arts into the museum experience.

Mrs. Reid also has been a curator of the Ackland Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and held curatorial staff positions at the David and Alfred Smart Museum at the University of Chicago, and the Toledo Museum of Art.

Mrs. Reid is now overseeing a $170 million expansion at CMA, and pursuing major works to add to the museum's collection, including masterpieces of modern art. "Of course, Mrs. Reid's ability was evident in her Laurel days," Helen Marter notes. "According to her Laurel yearbook, 'distinct authority lies behind her look of calm kindness.'" Fluent in French, Mrs. Reid's areas of interest include

17th-century European paintings, 20th-century painting and sculpture, and late-19th- and 20th-century American and European decorative arts.

Each year since 1978, Laurel School has named a distinguished alumna who embodies the mission of the school in her professional or volunteer life. Past winners of this honor include Kate Ireland, Frontier Nursing pioneer; Natalie Moore Babbit, children's author; Terry Horvitz Kovel, author and antiques expert; the late Andy Logan Lyon, journalist columnist for *The New Yorker*; Donna Ferrato, photojournalist, author, and advocate for victims of domestic violence; and Nina Freedlander Gibans, arts advocate. For more information, contact Laurel School, (216) 464-1441.

Founded in 1896, Laurel School is a nationally recognized, independent day school for girls, Kindergarten – Grade 12, with coeducational programs for three- and four-year-olds.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive art museums. Its permanent collection, built on the strength of the museum's curators, is world renowned for its quality and breadth spanning 5,000 years. The museum is a key international player in exhibitions, scholarship, and art acquisitions. For more information about the museum and its programs, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.clevelandart.org.

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